

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

FARR, Sam (Democrat)
Representative, 17th District, California
Elected 8Jun93 to the 103rd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: San Francisco, California - 4 July 1941

Home: Carmel, California

Marital Status: Married (Shary) - 1 child

Religion: Episcopalian

Education: Willamette Univ, BS, 1963

Military: None

Profession: Legislator

Political: Monterey County Board of Supervisors, 1975-81; California Assembly, 1981-93; defeated Bill McCampbell (R) in 8Jun93 special runoff election to succeed former Rep Leon Panetta (D) who resigned to become Director of OMB. Sworn in 15Jun93.

Reelected in 1996 general election with 59% of the vote; also in 2000 with 69% and in 2002 with 68%.

Rep Farr, a liberal, espoused environmental protection, education and economic development during his 1993 campaign. Appointed in Jul93 to the Armed Services Cmte.

In 104th Congress, lost Armed Services Cmte seat. Said FY96 VA-HUD appropriations neglected the needs of nations veterans and military retirees. In the 105th Congress urged Congress to pay UN arrearages and said continued failure to honor obligations threatens financial and political stability of UN.

In the 106th Congress, was appointed to Appropriations Cmte, leaving Agriculture and Resources Cmtes. Said his assignment to the milcon subc would allow him to keep both the NPS and DLI in his district vibrant and integral parts of the nation's defense. In May 1999 joined two dozen of his House Democratic colleagues who urged a 72 hour halt in US bombing of Yugoslavia in an attempt to bring Milosevic to the bargaining table. On 6May99 offered but then withdrew an amdt to FY99 Kosovo emergency supp approps that sought to authorize payments for claims arising from deaths caused by Air Force CT-43 crash on 3Apr96 near Dubrovnik, Croatia which killed former Sec/Commerce Ron Brown and others, including a constituent. On 11Nov99 introduced HR3295, a claims bill to provide \$2M in compensation for each of the families of victims killed in Apr 96 CT-43 crash. Said the conversion process underway at Ft Ord has become a national model for base reuse. Cosponsored a bill (HR2966) that would ensure that career military personnel receive fully-paid health care upon retirement. In March00 urged AF officials to work with the other services in reaching one standard applicable to all environmental cleanup at closed military facilities in California.

In the 107th Congress, after the Navy announced that it dropped plans to greatly increase use of an Army base between Hearst Castle and Big Sur as a bombing range, called the decision a great victory for opponents who had complained about the noise and impact on the environment and tourism. After the September 11 terrorist attacks, observed that while Americans are being encouraged to travel, spend money, and help revive the economy, the Nation's Capitol is "closed, locked and off limits." Joined in remarks celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps. Noted that six of the more than 162,000 Americans who have served in the Peace Corps are currently serving in the Congress. Offered a resolution honoring Sargent Shriver, the first director of the Peace Corps.

Additional: Peace Corps volunteer; served in Colombia

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Military Construction; Agriculture, Rural Development and
FDA